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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 A-01 OPR-02
SS-15 PA-02 /033 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1804
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
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UNCLAS BANGKOK 8130

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, ASEAN, US, TH
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT ON VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT
AND U.S. RELATIONS WITH ASEAN

1. FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT IN MAR 16 PRESS CONFERENCE CONFIRMED FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THAILAND BY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND SPOKE OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH ASEAN. FOLLOWING IS USIS TRANSLATION OF UPPADIT REMARKS.

2. BEGIN EXCERPT:

Q: IS THE REPORT THAT THE U.S. VICE PRESIDENT IS COMING ON A VISIT TO THAILAND CORRECT?

A: YES. HE WILL ARRIVE APRIL 13 ACCOMPANIED BY A LARGE PARTY.

Q: ON WHAT SUBJECTS WILL NEGOTIATIONS BE HELD?

A: OH, HE ISN'T COMING HERE TO NEGOTIATE. OUR PRIME MINISTER SENT A LETTER INVITING PRESIDENT CARTER TO PAY A VISIT TO THAILAND, AND HE HAS REPLIED THAT HE CANNOT FIND TIME TO COME.
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BUT HE IS SENDING VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AS HIS REPRESENTATIVE. AND AS FAR AS I HAVE HEARD, HE WILL BE HERE ONLY ONE DAY.

Q: WILL HE LEAVE APRIL 14?

A: YES.

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Q: IS THIS PART OF A VISIT THAT IS BEING MADE TO ASEAN COUNTRIES?

A: YES. TO OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES, ALSO. I CAN'T REMEMBER, BUT I THINK HE WILL GO FROM HERE TO THE PHILIPPINES, OR HE WILL VISIT THREE OR FOUR ASEAN COUNTRIES--I'M NOT QUITE SURE.

Q: WHAT PROGRAM HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR HIS VISIT HERE?

A: THE PROGRAM IS NOT FINAL YET. BUT HE WILL PAY A COURTESY CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER. A REQUEST HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE FOR AN AUDIENCE WITH HIS MAJESTY THE KING, AND THERE WILL PROBABLY BE NO PROBLEM REGARDING THAT.

Q: WHAT ISSUES OR SUBJECTS WILL WE BRING UP FOR TALKS DURING HIS VISIT?

A: PLEASE GIVE ME SOME TIME, BECAUSE IT WILL REALLY BE ANOTHER MONTH BEFORE HE ARRIVES HERE.

Q: DO YOU THINK COOPERATION WILL BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED?

A: DEFINITELY.

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Q: THERE WAS A NEWS REPORT YESTERDAY IN WHICH THE U.S. SAYS IT SHOULD CONTINUE HAVING BASES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THIS WAS A STATEMENT MADE TO CONGRESS BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, AND IT IS IN A USIS NEWS RELEASE. WHAT HE TOLD CONGRESS COULD BE CONSIDERED AS A COMMIT-MENT, COULDN'T IT? WILL YOU PLEASE COMMENT ON THE U.S. ATTITUDE REGARDING THIS STATEMENT?

A: LOOK HERE* EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THE U.S. AND THE PHILIPPINES ARE HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS ON AMERICAN BASES. LARGE AMERICAN BASES ARE IN THE PHILIPPINES, BUT IT IS DEFINITE THAT NO U.S. BASES ARE LEFT IN THAILAND NOW. THEREFORE, THE STATEMENT MIGHT HAVE MEANT BASES IN THE SAME REGION AS THAILAND, MOST PROBABLY IN THE PHILIPPINES. THAT IS WHAT I UNDERSTAND. THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING HELD BECAUSE THE PHILIPPINES WANTS THE U.S. TO LEASE THOSE BASES. IN OTHER WORDS, THE PHILIPPINES WANTS TO OBTAIN MONEY FOR THE USE OF THOSE BASES, THUS PROVING THAT THOSE BASES BELONG TO THE PHILIPPINES, ALSO. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME TIME AND ARE STILL CONTINUING.

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Q: THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE ASSERTED THAT THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE SAFEGUARDING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL ASEAN COUNTRIES AND THAT THIS IS CONDIDERED OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

A: THIS IS NOTHING NEW AT ALL. SIMILAR STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE MANY TIMES ALREADY, NOT ONLY TO THAILAND, BUT TO OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES ALSO. WHEN OUR PRIME MINISTER VISITED ASEAN COUNTRIES RECENTLY, HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES INFORMED HIM THAT THE U.S. HAD ASSERTED THAT IT WILL NOT DESERT THIS REGION, THAT IT WILL CONTINUE HAVING RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH COUNTRIES OF THIS REGION. FURTHERMORE, THE U.S. IS READY TO GIVE VARIOUS FORMS OF TECHNOLOGICAL AID (USED ENGLISH WORD "TECHNOLOGICAL"). AND TRADE BETWEEN THE U.S.
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AND ASEAN COUNTRIES WILL BE PROMOTED, AND WE WILL EXPORT MORE GOODS TO THE U.S. AND BUY MORE GOODS FROM THEM, SINCE IT IS A VERY BIG MARKET.

Q: I HAVE HEARD THAT A SECOND ROUND OF TALKS WILL BE HELD WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES BY THE U.S.

A: THE U.S. IS COOPERATING WITH ASEAN IN WHAT IT CALLS A U.S.-ASEAN DIALOG. WHEN THESE DIALOGS ARE HELD, THE U.S. AND THE ASEAN COUNTRIES HOLD CONSULTATIONS AND DISCUSS VARIOUS SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. THE LAST DIALOG WAS HELD IN MANILA WHERE GENERAL ROMULO WAS SPOKESMAN FOR ALL ASEAN COUNTRIES. THE NEXT ROUND OF DIALOGS WILL BE HELD SOMETIME ABOUT THE MIDDLE OR AT THE END OF THE PRESENT YEAR- I CAN'T REMEMBER EXACTLY.

Q: WILL COOPERATION ENCOUNTER ANY DIFFICULTIES OR OBSTACLES?

A: THE VARIOUS FORMS OF AID AND COOPERATION GIVEN BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ASEAN COUNTRIES WILL BE IN FORMS SUITABLE FOR IMPLEMENTING IN A PRACTICAL MANNER. END EXCERPT.
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